Road-rail linkage scheme for Gujarat

1134. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road-rail linkage is extremely important for faster movement of traffic from the ports;

(b) if so, whether the same consideration is equally applicable even in respect of the State of Gujarat;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to expedite the work of such projects in the State of Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that road-rail linkage is extremely important for faster movement of traffic to and from the Ports All Major Ports of the country, including the one is Gujarat, are already well connected to the Railways and the National Highway network. Augmentation of road and rail connectivity to the Ports is an ongoing process depending on the traffic requirements. Progress of implementation of the ongoing projects for rail road connectivity to Major Ports is reviewed on a quarterly basis by a Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission to ensure completion of all projects within the scheduled time.

Accidents on NHs

1135. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fatal accidents that have taken place on the National Highways during the last three years ending 31st March, 2006, year-wise and the total number of persons who lost their lives as a result thereof, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the accident victims on the National Highways succumbed to their injuries as prompt medical treatment could not be made available;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to address this problem; and

(d) if so, in what manner and by when that is likely to be in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) As reported by the States/Union Territories, the details regarding number of fatal accidents and persons killed on National Highways (NHs) during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 (the latest available data) are as under:—

Year	Number of fatal road Accidents on NHs	Number of Persons killed on NHs
2002	28,317	33,621
2003	28,733	33,153
2004 (P)	29,352	34,723

P = Provisional

(b) to (d) No statistics is available regarding victims of accident succumbing to their injuries in absence of prompt medical attention. Provision of assistance in case of raod accident is basically the responsibility of the State Government. However, this Ministry has been providing ambulances to States/Union Territories/Non-Governmental Organisations to evacuate accident victims to the nearest medical centre under National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme. During the period from 2000-01 to 2004-05,266 ambulances has been given to various States under this scheme. In addition, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has a scheme of providing an ambulance under Operation and Maintenance and BoT contract on completed stretches of National Highways approximately after every 50 Km. As on 16.6.2006, 81 ambulances had been deployed on National Highways by NHAI.

Apart from the above, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides assistance upto Rs. 1.5 crore to the States/UTs. under the scheme of 'Assistance for Capacity Building' for upgradation of emergency services/ trauma care facilities in hospitals including those located near the National Highways. As per information available with this Ministry, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 94.27 crore to 71 hospitals during the period from 1999-2000 to 2005-06.

Ambulances on NHs

1136. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have finally decided to arrange the